

Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Dan Panico Announce Condemnation of Home in Shirley Overrun by Animals

posted on 2/23/2011 5:07:49 PM



Farmingville, NY - On Tuesday, February 22, 2011, the Quality of Life Task Force quickly acted on a complaint from a neighbor and investigated 36 Malba Drive in Shirley. When Quality of Life Task Force investigators entered the home, they observed over 100 animals - dead and alive - including a cow, pig, and goats. Animal feces covered the home and the outside was littered with old tractor style lawn mowers, trailers, and wooden produce containers. The Task Force immediately notified several Suffolk County agencies, including the Suffolk County SPCA and the Suffolk County Police Department.

"I applaud the swift action of the Quality of Life Task Force in responding to the terrible situation at this property," said Supervisor Mark Lesko, "this animal hoarding is one of the most egregious Quality of Life Task Force cases we have seen. We will prosecute the code violations issued to the property owner to the fullest extent of the law and the Quality of Life Task Force will continue to aggressively crack down on property owners who disregard the health and safety of Brookhaven residents."

"Since taking office less than a year ago, I have moved forward to aggressively address code violations like this one yesterday," said Councilman Dan Panico. "A full and thorough investigation will be conducted and while I am thankful that we were able to save and place the animals contained in this home, I am more thankful that the elderly woman living in this home no longer has to endure such living conditions. This is part of my ongoing "See Something, Say Something" initiative that is yielding very positive results. However, there is much work to be done; I encourage every resident in my district to contact me directly if they have information or an issue that needs to be addressed. Together with our Quality of Life Task Force we are making a difference in our communities."

The Town condemned the house for sanitary conditions and all of the animals were impounded and taken away by the SCSPCA MASH Unit - a mobile animal hospital. In total, the Quality of Life Task Force investigators observed the following animals on the property and in the home: one cow, one pig, eight goats, five dogs, six cats, two ducks (one was found dead), several chinchillas, one sun conure (a type of bird), two cockatiels, seven fancy rats, two love birds, three hens, one pheasant, one diamond dove, several cats, and approximately 75 pigeons, with five of the pigeons found dead.

Eight appearance tickets were issued to the property owner, three of which are misdemeanor offenses. The court date is set for April 21, 2011. The Town started the process for conducting the clean-up of the property and anticipates that it will complete by the middle of March. The Town will recoup the costs of the clean up from the property owner.

Supervisor Mark Lesko established the Town of Brookhaven's Quality of Life Task Force in June 2009 to crack down on property owners who violate the Town code. From 2008 to 2009, the Quality of Life Task Force increased fines on violations by 170%. From 2009 to 2010, the Task Force continued its track record of success by almost doubling fines to nearly \$1 million. The Quality of Life Task Force has closed down numerous illegal multi-family dwellings, hauled tons of garbage and debris out of yards and homes, and put absentee landlords out of business. If residents believe that a property is in violation of any Town of Brookhaven codes, they can call 451-TOWN to file a complaint.





Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258